

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 475

BY JUDICIARY, RULES, AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSPENSION OF JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE; AMENDING SECTION 19-2601, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THE COURT AUTHORITY TO EXTEND A PERIOD OF PROBATION FOR CERTAIN PERSONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 19-3921, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THE COURT AUTHORITY TO EXTEND A PERIOD OF PROBATION FOR CERTAIN PERSONS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 19-2601, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

19-2601. COMMUTATION, SUSPENSION, WITHHOLDING OF SENTENCE -- PROBATION. Whenever any person shall have been convicted, or enter a plea of guilty, in any district court of the state of Idaho, of or to any crime against the laws of the state, except those of treason or murder, the court in its discretion, may:

1. Commute the sentence and confine the defendant in the county jail, or, if the defendant is of proper age, commit the defendant to the custody of the state department of juvenile corrections; or

2. Suspend the execution of the judgment at the time of judgment or at any time during the term of a sentence in the county jail and place the defendant on probation under such terms and conditions as it deems necessary and expedient; or

3. Withhold judgment on such terms and for such time as it may prescribe and may place the defendant on probation; or

4. Suspend the execution of the judgment at any time during the first three hundred sixty-five (365) days of a sentence to the custody of the state board of correction. The court shall retain jurisdiction over the prisoner for a period of up to the first three hundred sixty-five (365) days or, if the prisoner is a juvenile, until the juvenile reaches twenty-one (21) years of age. During the period of retained jurisdiction, the state board of correction shall be responsible for determining the placement of the prisoner and such education, programming and treatment as it determines to be appropriate. The prisoner will remain committed to the board of correction if not affirmatively placed on probation by the court. In extraordinary circumstances, where the court concludes that it is unable to obtain and evaluate the relevant information within the period of retained jurisdiction, or where the court concludes that a hearing is required and is unable to obtain the defendant's presence for such a hearing within such period, the court may decide whether to place the defendant on probation or release jurisdiction within a reasonable time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, after the period of retained jurisdiction has expired. Placement on probation shall be under such terms and conditions as the court deems necessary and expedient. The court in its discretion may sentence a defendant to more than one (1) pe-

riod of retained jurisdiction after a defendant has been placed on probation in a case. In no case shall the board of correction or its agent, the department of correction, be required to hold a hearing of any kind with respect to a recommendation to the court for the grant or denial of probation. Probation is a matter left to the sound discretion of the court. Any recommendation made by the department to the court regarding the prisoner shall be in the nature of an addendum to the presentence report. The board of correction and its agency, the department of correction, and their employees shall not be held financially responsible for damages, injunctive or declaratory relief for any recommendation made to the district court under this section.

5. If the crime involved is a felony and if judgment is withheld as provided in subsection 3. of this section or if judgment and a sentence of custody to the state board of correction is suspended at the time of judgment in accordance with subsection 2. of this section or as provided by subsection 4. of this section and the court shall place the defendant upon probation, it shall be to the board of correction, to a county juvenile probation department, or any other person or persons the court, in its discretion, deems appropriate.

6. If the crime involved is a misdemeanor, indictable or otherwise, or if the court should suspend any remaining portion of a jail sentence already commuted in accordance with subsection 1. of this section, the court, if it grants probation, may place the defendant on probation. If the convicted person is a juvenile held for adult criminal proceedings, the court may order probation under the supervision of the county's juvenile probation department.

7. The period of probation ordered by a court under this section under a conviction or plea of guilty for a misdemeanor, indictable or otherwise, may be for a period of not more than two (2) years; and provided that the court may extend the period of probation to include the period of time during which the defendant is a participant in a problem solving court program and for a period of up to one (1) year after a defendant's graduation or termination from a problem solving court program. Under a conviction or plea of guilty for a felony the period of probation may be for a period of not more than the maximum period for which the defendant might have been imprisoned.

SECTION 2. That Section 19-3921, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

19-3921. PROCEEDINGS ON PLEA OF GUILTY. When the defendant pleads guilty, or is convicted either by the court or by a jury, the court must render judgment thereon of fine or imprisonment, or both, as the case may be: provided, however, it appearing to the court that it is a proper case, the court may, in its discretion, suspend the execution of judgment, and at such time, or any time during the period of sentence in a county jail, may put the defendant on probation on such terms and for such time as it may prescribe. The period of probation ordered by the court under this section under a conviction or plea of guilty for a misdemeanor, indictable or otherwise, may be for a period of not more than two (2) years; provided that the court may extend the period of probation to include the period of time during which the defendant is a participant in a problem solving court program and for a period of up to one (1) year after a defendant's graduation or termination

1 from a problem solving court program. The court may withhold judgment on  
2 such terms and conditions as it deems necessary or expedient.